

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, and 12 and allowed claims 13-33. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowable subject matter within the instant claims. By the present Response, claim 1 is amended, claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 53-56 have been added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-33, and 53-56 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner raised certain objections to the drawings. Figures 2 and 3 have been amended by the present Response to obviate these objections. A hand annotated copy of Figures 2 and 3 is enclosed for explanatory purposes, and a corrected copy of the figures is also enclosed for replacement purposes. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are requested.

By the present Response, claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter originally recited in claim 3, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 3 has been cancelled and amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2 and 4-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

A new claim 53 has been created that incorporates the subject matter of original claim 1 and claim 4, also indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 53 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

A new claim 54 has been created that incorporates subject matter of original claims 1 and 6, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 54 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

A new claim 55 has been created which incorporates subject matter originally recited in original claims 1 and 9, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 55 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

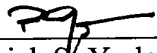
Finally, a new claim 56 has been created that incorporates subject matter originally recited in claims 1, 10 and 11, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 56 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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